



28 November 2023

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Students

**PROPOSED JAPANESE TOUR UPDATE**

I write to provide an update on the current status of a proposed visit to Japan for students in Years 10 and 11 studying Japanese during 2024.

As per College process, a written submission in relation to the tour was provided by the organising teachers for consideration and approval by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

In considering the submission, the College's duty of care to ensure the safety of students accessing home stay accommodation, which has always been the cornerstone of such tours, was of particular concern. The significant costs to the College and families of students who meet the eligibility criteria and the College in providing a very bespoke opportunity to a very limited number of students, albeit for valid reasons, and the continuing reality of COVID that could still pose potential risks to staff and students were also considered.

As such, it was deemed prudent not to proceed with the proposed tour in 2024. This will enable a broader review of the rationale underpinning overseas and interstate extra-curricular experiences to be undertaken. This process will be conducted within the context of enhanced compliance requirements that significantly impact the planning and conduct of such opportunities.

This decision is in no way a reflection on the staff members involved in the initial planning as both have extensive experience in successfully conducting similar opportunities for students in the past.

I readily acknowledge that mixed messaging has unfortunately led to some confusion and disappointment for which I accept responsibility and apologise. However, careful discernment in matters relating to the safety and wellbeing of all within our College community has to be paramount in our individual and collective decision making.

Thank you for your understanding.

With regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

**Geoff Mills**